

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SS-15 USIA-15 OES-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01
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TAGS: ECOSOC, GE

SUBJECT: 63RD ECOSOC: GENERAL DEBATE

1. SUMMARY. JULY 13 AFTERNOON ECOSOC PLENARY HEARD GENERAL
DEBATE STATEMENTS BY BRAZIL, JAMAICA, TOGO, UNCTAD, KENYA AND
THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION. END SUMMARY

2. AMB DA COSTA OF BRAZIL SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF THE NIEO,
AND CRITICIZED THE DEVELOPED WORLD FOR FAILING TO MEET ITS
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. NEGOTIATIONS WITH
THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE MTN, HAD PROVED
DISAPPOINTING. IN DISCUSSING THE WORK OF THE SCIENCE AND TECH-
NOLOGY COMMITTEE HE UNDERLINED THE POSITIVE "CONTRIBUTIONS PUT
FORWARD BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE PERTINENT
NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMISSIONS", BUT DID NOT OTHERWISE COMMENT
ON THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE SYG. HE SUPPORTED THE WORK OF TCDC
AND THE CONVERSION OF UNIDO INTO A SPECIALIZED AGENCY. REFER-
RING TO CERDS, HE REITERATED BRAZIL'S DISAGREEMENT WITH ARTICLE
3 ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES. HE REFERRED TO THE TRILATERAL
COORDINATION OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECTS ON THE PARANA RIVER.
AT THE END OF THE SESSION, THE ARGENTINE DELEGATE EXERCISED
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RIGHT OF REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THE ARTICLE 3 PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR
CONSULTATION ON EXPLOITATION OF SHARED RESOURCES. THE EXCHANGE
WAS LOW KEY, AND WE HEAR THAT THE BRAZILIANS ASSISTED THE ARGEN-
TINES IN DRAFTING THEIR REPLY. CIEC HAD PROVED GENERALLY DIS-
APPOINTING ALTHOUGH BRAZIL RECOGNIZED POSITIVE NATURE OF THE
RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE. HE ENDED WITH AN
EXPRESSIOON OF HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

3. AMB MILLS OF JAMAICA DELIVERED A STRONG AND THOUGHTFUL SPEECH ON THE LACK OF MOVEMENT IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING, CITING SERIOUS DISAPPOINTMENTS AT UNCTAD IV AND THE IMPASSE AT CIEC. HOWEVER, HE RECOGNIZED "SOME VERY WELCOMOME CHANGES OF ATTITUDE AND STYLE. HE DISCUSSED IN DEPTH THE PROBLEMS OF THE INDUSTRIALIZED DEMOCRACIES, WHICH HE SAID LAY IN THE FACT THAT "THEY HAVE BUILDT AN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEM ON THE ASSUMPTION OF CONTINUED ECONOMIC GROWTH," A GROWTH WHICH IS NO LONGER GUARANTEED." THE NIEO IS AN "INESCAPABLE SOLUTION" TO THIS GLOBAL DILEMMA. WHILE HE SUPPORTED THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS CONCEPT, HE ASSERTED THAT IT IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR RESTRUCTURING THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM. CIEC FAILED IN THAT THERE APPEARED NO MOVEMENT TOWARD THIS GLOBAL RESTRUCTURING. WHILE HE SAID THAT THE PROCESS OF UN RESTRUCTURING HAD BROUGHT LIMITED RESULTS, JAMAICA COMMITTEE ITSELF TO A FINAL EFFORT TO COMPOSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE GA BY SEPTEMBER. HE MENTIONED THE "DEPRESSING SITUATION" IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IDS, AND CRITICIZED THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES FOR FAILING TO MAKE THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. HE VALSO MENTIOED THAT JAMAICA WELCOMED COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION OF THE SYG'S PROPOSAL FOR AN ENERGY INSTITUTE.

4. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF TOGO EXPRESSED CONCERN ON PROBLEMS OF EXTERNAL DEBT, FOOD SUPPLY, AND THE HIGH PRICES OF IMPORTS. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAD BEEN INADEQUATE.
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5 UNCTAD SYG GAMANI COREA GAVE A MODERATE SPEECH ON THE STATUS OF ISSUES AT UNCTAD IV, AND ON THE COMMISSION'S TASKS FOR THE FUTURE. INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES NEGOTIATIONS UNDER THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES HAD CREATED MORE UNDERSTANDING BUT, DESPITE THE IMPETUS FROM CIEC, HAD ACHIEVED FEW CONCRETE RESULTS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE COMMON FUND WOULD GIVE IMPETUS TO NEGOTIATIONS ON SPECIFIC COMMODITIES. HE URGED THAT MORE ATTENTION BE PAID TO THE GROWING EXTERNAL DEBT OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND TO PROGRESSING ON A PROGRAM FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. COOPERATION AMONGST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MUST ALSO GAIN NEW MOMENTUM. HE URGED THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO RESPOND MORE ADEQUATELY AND EFFECTIVELY TO THE PROBLEMS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. HE WELCOMED AN INCREASED SENSITIVITY TO MEETING ESSENTIAL NEEDS, BUT WARNED THAT THIS MUST NOT DETRACT FROM THE NEED TO ENHANCE THE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPACITY OF THE LDCS.

6. KENYA SPOKE ON THE NEED TO IMPLEMENT THE VANCOUVER HABITAT RESOLUTIONS AND EMPHASIZED THE "NATURAL" LINKAGE BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT MATTERS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS, THUS SUPPORTING THEIR POSITION ON AN INSTITUTIONAL LINK BETWEEN HABITAT AND UNEP. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WATER CONFERENCE, AND

EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION OF THE PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

7. THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION POINTED OUT THAT NATIONAL ECONOMIC GROWTH ALONE DOES NOT SOLVE DOMESTIC PROBLEMS OF DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH, UNEMPLOYMENT, STATUS OF WOMEN, SITUATION OF THE RURAL POOR, ETC. VANDEN HEUVEL

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